

important parts of our community, and it builds a bigger and more intense divide between regions and groups in our country. Our Nation's food policy should not be something that further divides us. This part of the House farm bill proposal, I think, is bad policy. It will not succeed legislatively, nor can it be successfully implemented.

The United States Senate is writing a bipartisan farm bill, and that is what we should be doing in the House. As a matter of fact, the farm bill, for over 40 years, has been one of the most bipartisan things that we do in Congress.

I call upon my colleagues to work together, in a bipartisan fashion, to negotiate these differences, one that serves the widest range of Americans so that we can produce enduring good public policy decisions that serve to protect the safety net for all Americans, promote American farmers, ranchers, and dairy people so that we can not only feed the Nation but compete in foreign markets.

We can do better. We should do better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us in this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both this assembly and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court—as well as to us all, that all of our institutions and all of our communities fulfill the noble promises of our representative form of self-government.

Grant us the courage to become whom You have called us to be—our better selves—so that the United States might continue to be a nation worthy of emulation.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATIONS MURPHYS BORO MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly honor the Murphysboro Middle School Blue Devils Girls volleyball team for winning the Class L State Championship for the second straight year.

Along the way, the team also captured their eighth consecutive Junior Southwest Egyptian Conference title. That win was also a career milestone for Coach Mike Layne. It marked the 1,000th combined career win while coaching volleyball for Murphysboro Community Unit School District at both the middle school and high school levels.

I extend a heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaching staff, school officials, family, and friends who supported these young ladies on their incredible journey. Southern Illinois is proud of you.

Go, Blue Devils.

REJECT THE REPUBLICAN FARM BILL

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House Agriculture Committee will mark up the Republican farm bill. This incredibly partisan proposal was drafted in secret. Almost nothing in the bill reflects the 23 hearings our committee held on SNAP.

We heard from 90 experts, and not a single one of them, liberal or conservative, suggested eliminating State flexibility through broad-based categorical eligibility and worsening the benefit cliff.

Not a single one of them said to us: Kick 400,000 working families out of the

program and 265,000 children off of free school meals.

Not a single one of them told us to add hurdles for families with heating and cooling costs, and not a single one suggested we kick vulnerable adults off of benefits when they can't find work.

Yet that is exactly what this bill does. The reckless Republican proposals in this bill cut SNAP benefits by over \$20 billion, reducing or eliminating benefits for 2 million kids, veterans, working families, and other vulnerable adults.

Make no mistake, this bill will make hunger worse in our country. I plead with the Republican leadership of this House: Stop beating up on poor people.

MARKING TAX DAY 2018

(Mr. GIANFORTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark tax day 2018.

I do not make it a habit of celebrating tax day, but this year is different. Tax day 2018 is the last time the American people will have to file their taxes under a complex, outdated Tax Code.

The new Tax Code lowers the tax rate for every Montanan. The reduced rates are creating larger paychecks. A teacher in Billings told me her take-home pay has gone up \$1,500 a year.

The new Tax Code provides relief to Montana families by doubling the child tax credit. Parents will have more money to buy their children clothes, diapers, and food.

Today, I am celebrating tax day 2018 because we are putting that old antigrowth Tax Code out to pasture. In its place is a new, simpler Tax Code that cuts rates for all Montanans, helps families, and is growing our economy, leading to more jobs and higher wages.

ADHERE TO THE RULE OF LAW

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my task this morning to encourage my colleagues to adhere to the rule of law.

In keeping with that, my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee—Mr. NADLER, the ranking member, myself, and Mr. COHEN—introduced H.R. 5476, the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, to protect the work of Special Counsel Mueller and to allow his work to proceed.

In the recent days, Mr. Mueller's prosecutors found information that generated questions about criminal activity. No prosecutor can ignore that kind of evidence. He referred it first to the Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Rosenstein, to approve his potential referral of that information, and he did approve it. It was referred to the Southern District of New York.

We now come to find out that the President's attorney has been investigated for a long period of time. We found out a surprise: one of his clients was Sean Hannity, who was already being investigated.

This is an insurance that the President will not fire the special counsel and allow his work to continue. That is an Article I responsibility, a constitutional responsibility, and I encourage my colleagues to join us to provide that insurance.

SAVE A MAJESTIC SHIP FROM SINKING INTO THE DEPTHS OF HISTORY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the first board of her keel landed on the dockyard with a loud thump.

It was 107 years ago today, April 17, 1911. One year later, she sailed smoothly into Newport News, Virginia, harbor, christened the USS *Texas*, BB-35. She was commissioned and saw immediate action in World War I. The *Texas* made numerous voyages to the North Sea, serving the country and our State of Texas.

Upon formal entry into World War II, the battleship *Texas* escorted war convoys across the Atlantic, was the flagship on D-day, and saw action in the Pacific as well. She was decommissioned in 1948.

Texas schoolchildren saved their nickels to bring the ship home to Texas. She is now moored in La Porte, Texas. But now after serving our great Nation, *Texas* is in danger of being scrapped for parts, a fate unfitting for the majestic ship that served our country.

To prevent this, the State of Texas and Congress must band together and work to save the battleship *Texas* from sinking into the depths of history.

And that is just the way it is.

OPPOSE THE FARM BILL

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the recently released farm bill for 2018.

Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration want to unravel the social safety net, and according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, this farm bill cuts total Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits—that is the Food Stamp program—by more than \$23 billion.

Its stricter work requirements could affect 5 million Americans who receive food stamps in this country—children, seniors, the disabled, and, yes, veterans—even though most recipients who can work already do.

All told, 2 million would lose some or all of their benefits. To my colleagues

I say, these are not just numbers on a page; these are people who are in need.

At the same time, Republicans want to expand the ill-targeted commodity programs. They will maintain crop insurance subsidies that have no eligibility requirements or limits.

This farm bill is not reform; it is hypocrisy. No one in this Chamber goes hungry. They have three squares or more. I urge my colleagues to defend the Food Stamp program and oppose this farm bill.

MARKET DATA PROTECTION

(Mr. DAVIDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, the Consolidated Audit Trail stands as the largest financial database in the world and ranks second in size only to the NSA's database.

The value of the sensitive information housed within this database includes Social Security numbers, broker numbers, account numbers. In fact, it is comparable to nine times the wealth that is in Fort Knox—far more sensitive than the Equifax data, whose breach affects 143 million Americans.

Despite the enormity of wealth within this database, the unfortunate reality is that its cybersecurity is not yet adequate. The Government Accountability Office report found the SEC's systems “at unnecessary risk of compromise.” The CAT operator recently delayed the issuing of technical specifications, which means that industry will have just 1 month to transmit all of this market data.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Market Data Protection Act, which passed this House with unanimous support, to guarantee the private information of hundreds of millions of Americans transmits securely and without risk. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to send this bill to the President's desk.

TAX BILL BENEFITS THE WEALTHY

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, the day that hardworking Americans finish preparing their taxes; and it is already clear, looking at the new tax bill, that it will overwhelmingly benefit CEOs, shareholders, and the wealthiest Americans.

Since the passage of this Republican tax bill, corporations have already funneled \$250 billion to CEOs and shareholders through stock buybacks, money that is not going to workers. Stock buybacks overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans and corporate executives. In fact, the richest 10 percent of American households hold 84 percent of stocks.

The CBO just released information showing that this tax bill will increase the deficit by \$1.9 trillion.

So let's get this straight. The Federal Government borrows almost \$2 trillion from our children and our grandchildren so that we can funnel hundreds of billions of dollars to the wealthiest Americans. Is that what we should be doing here?

I think not.

SYRIAN CHEMICAL ATTACKS

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, President Trump and our British and French allies made it known that the heinous actions of dictator Bashar al-Assad will not be tolerated.

Over the past 3 years, Assad, aided by Iran and Russia, has continued to carry out chemical warfare against his own people. Not only is this in direct violation of Syria's previous agreement to destroy their chemical weapons stockpile, but it also violates every tenet of basic human decency and violates our Geneva Conventions standards.

Through pictures and images, the world quickly saw the aftermath of Assad's most recent attack on his own people: scores of people dead or dying while foaming at the mouth, including women and innocent children.

By aiding Assad's murder of his own people and then working to prevent a response by the United Nations, Russia and Iran deserve equal blame and scrutiny when it comes to these attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to follow through with the sanctions on Russian companies that was announced by Ambassador Nikki Haley and to continue sending a clear message that these horrific criminal actions by the dictator, Assad, will not be tolerated.

BRING THE DREAM ACT TO THE FLOOR

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Speaker RYAN do the following: before he retires, do the right thing and bring the Dream Act to the floor.

Already 46 of his Republican colleagues and more than 170 Democrats—that is 218 bipartisan supporters—have, as of today, cosponsored H. Res. 774. This will force debate on competing DACA bills in the House and use a procedure known as Queen of the Hill. This will include four amendments, including Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD's clean Dream Act and an amendment, H.R. 4796, the USA Act. Mr. Speaker, this will force a debate on this issue.

The Dreamers have the support of the American people and Members of Congress. Bring the Dream Act to the floor.